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Letter dated 6 February 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

For the last 15 years that the outstanding issue of the name of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia remains unresolved, despite the international and bilateral efforts undertaken in the context of the United Nations, Greece has continuously been faced with a conduct on the part of the forme: Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia which contravenes the letter and the spirit of the Interim Accord, signed by Greece and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on 13 September 1995. This conduct is not in line with Security Council resolutions 817 (1993) and 845 (1993) and not consistent with the general principles of international law enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. It unsettles good-neighbourly relations and undermines the climate of mutual trust and confidence which is necessary for the progress of the ongoing negotiations carried out under the auspices of the United Nations.

Greece has repeatedly denounced this behaviour on the part of the Government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia at both the bilateral and international level, but to no avail, since the latter has not ceased so far its unlawful course of action or taken any corrective measures.

Some of the most recent examples of the unchanged provocative and offensive policy of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia are the following:

The decision, published in the Official Gazette of the Government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, volume 164, on 29 December 2008, to name part of the Pan-European Corridor X that runs through its territory after Alexander the Great, who is universally acknowledged as a prominent Greek historical figure. It should be noted that this project was to be partly financed by Greece, which had pledged the amount of 50 million euros as a contribution to the economic development, not only of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia but also of the entire region of South-East Europe.

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The decision to name the main stadium of Skopje after Philip II of Macedon, father of Alexander the Great.

The use of the "Sun of Vergina" as a symbol of this country in government-financed television spots broadcast in both domestic and international media, while the Interim Accord in article 7, paragraph 2, categorically prohibits the use, in any way, of this symbol by the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Greece has officially protested about these actions to the authorities of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, requesting that adequate corrective measures be taken.

Notwithstanding the above, Greece remains committed to the objective of reaching speedily a mutually agreed solution to the name issue in the interests of peaceful and good-neighbourly relations in accordance with Security Council resolutions 817 (1993) and 845 (1993), while scrupulously abiding by the Interim Accord.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 109, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) John **Mourikis**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative